

**Hamilton County Community Corrections  
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes  
February 3, 2011**

The following members were present: Lee Buckingham, George Buskirk, Bill Cech, Jeff Davis, Roger Drayer, Judge Felix, Beth Gehlhausen, Stephenie Gookins, Chief T.J.Green, Eric Juarez, Stephanie Lyons, Leeann Murray, Judge Dan Pflaging, Dan Stevens, and Christi Tucker. A quorum was present. Ralph Watson and Stephanie Ruggles were also in attendance.

Beth Gehlhausen called the meeting to order. Ralph Watson welcomed new Board member, Carmel Chief of Police T.J. Green.

Beth called for the approval of the January meeting minutes. Stephenie Gookins made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. George Buskirk seconded, motion unanimously carried.

There were no fiscal reports to review or approve.

**Public Comment**

There were no public comments at this meeting.

**Director's Report**

A written report was submitted and reviewed by the Executive Director.

**Old Business**

Ralph Watson provided an update as to the Justice Reinvestment Project legislation. He was scheduled to testify at a hearing for Senate Bill 561 on Tuesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>. However, the Legislature dismissed early due to impending weather, and the hearing has not been rescheduled at this time. A hearing has yet to be scheduled for House Bill 1530. It appears that the legislation may face some challenging times during the hearing process, as there are many concerns among the various criminal justice stakeholders.

Ralph reported that he was contacted by the Department of Correction (DOC) regarding our 2011-2012 Grant Application. They initially requested that we would need to reduce our grant allocation by \$375,000. Their request was based on discussions that we had with the DOC concerning our program expansion in 2008. Once the request was received, Ralph had additional discussions with the DOC concerning our local commitment, and it was decided that we would no longer need to make the reduction as originally requested. Ralph pointed out that the DOC would only be funding approximately 50% percent of our budget, which appears to be a goal that they have for the counties participating in the community corrections funding process.

Ralph stated that he met with Captain Jason Sloderbeck of the Hamilton County Jail regarding concerns we had with accepting offenders into our program prior to the completion of their executed sentence in a secure setting. Captain Sloderbeck concurred with our assessment of the

situation and agreed that any such offenders that had executed time in a secure setting still pending would remain at the county jail until that portion of their sentence was completed. Ralph has also been in contact with the DOC regarding our concerns with the early transfer of the Community Transition Program participants and is awaiting a formal response.

### **New Business**

Ralph provided an update as to the various facility and grounds responsibilities that the department had assumed and that were not part of our original staffing plan or in our original funding plan. These include the purchase of various cleaning supplies, snow and ice removal, and meal delivery.

Lee Buckingham made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Leeann Murray seconded, motion unanimously carried. The next Advisory Board meeting will be held on **Thursday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at noon.**